



VT Developmental Disabilities Council
103 S. Main Street
Room #117 North
Waterbury, VT 05671-0206

VERMONT DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES COUNCIL



FY 2005
ANNUAL REPORT
10/1/2004 ~ 9/30/05

Greetings from the President

Fiscal year 2005 (10/01/04 to 9/30/05) was a time for self-reflection and future planning for the Vermont Developmental Disabilities Council. VTDDC members engaged in meaningful conversations about their personal experiences, dreams and challenges, and then worked together to create new mission and vision statements that everyone is committed to and invested in.



As a result of a more focused look at who we are and where we want to go in the future, VTDDC made some important revisions to our current State Plan that guides the projects funded by VTDDC. We also discussed ways to build our next five-year State Plan, due August 2006, by reaching out to Vermonters to share their personal experiences, dreams and challenges with us. We hope you get to know more about VTDDC through this Annual Report, our second in graphic format.

We approach FY06 with a renewed appreciation of how valuable our personal experiences are. With a strong commitment to work toward our goals, we can make a positive impact on our communities and the people of Vermont.

Sincerely,

Tami Trowell
President

Agency Representatives

Lucy Abair	Department for Children & Families
Claire Bruno	Department of Education
Cindy Ingham	Department of Health
Sara Kobylenski	Agency of Human Services Field Service Director
Glen McClintock	Division of Vocational Rehabilitation
Ed Paquin	Vermont Protection & Advocacy
Theresa Wood	Department of Disabilities, Aging and Independent Living
Susan Yuan	Center on Disability & Community Inclusion, University of Vermont

Staff

Karen Schwartz	Executive Director
Judith Parsons	Administrative Assistant

Contact the Council

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On the Web	www.ddc.vermont.gov

Council Members (as of 01/31/2006)



Self-Advocates, Individuals & Family Members

<i>Dawn Arsenault</i>	<i>Individual</i>	<i>Barre</i>
<i>Herb Gingrich</i>	<i>Individual</i>	<i>Middlebury</i>
<i>Harriet Hall</i>	<i>Individual</i>	<i>Newport</i>
<i>Robert Harvey</i>	<i>Family</i>	<i>Barre</i>
<i>Jay Lafayette</i>	<i>Individual</i>	<i>Rutland</i>
<i>Brian Lawlor</i>	<i>Family</i>	<i>Woodstock</i>
<i>Dennis Lindberg</i>	<i>Family</i>	<i>S. Burlington</i>
<i>Lance Mead</i>	<i>Family</i>	<i>Brandon</i>
<i>Robert Price</i>	<i>Family</i>	<i>Essex</i>
<i>Lisa Smedy</i>	<i>Individual</i>	<i>Barre</i>
<i>Tami Trowell</i>	<i>Family</i>	<i>Brattleboro</i>
<i>One Vacancy</i>		

What is VTDDC?

VTDDC is a state-wide Council that works to increase public awareness about critical issues affecting people with developmental disabilities and their families.

The Mission of VTDDC is to facilitate connections and to promote supports that bring people with developmental disabilities into the heart of Vermont communities.

60% of its 21 members are self-advocates and family members. VTDDC uses its federal funds for projects at the local, regional and state levels. These projects bring Vermonters with developmental disabilities into the heart of their communities through public education, leadership training, and advocacy aimed at enhancing individual and family-centered supports and services.



We believe...

- In communities where all people have a “voice” and are heard with respect;***
- In safe communities where all people have equal value;***
- In communities that are friendly and support equality and fulfilling relationships;***
- With opportunities, people grow and share their dreams and abilities; and***
- That the humanity we share is more important than our different abilities.***

Highlights of Grants Funded

Self-Advocacy Project

enables people with developmental disabilities to take control over their own lives, make decisions, solve problems and speak for themselves. *Grantee: Green Mountain Self-Advocates—GMSA*



Accomplishments included:

- ◆ 52 self-advocates trained on self-employment.
- ◆ 18 self-advocate peer trainers presented workshop on Section 8 funding to purchase homes.
- ◆ 150 self-advocates & support staff were trained based on “Our Bill of Rights” video.
- ◆ 100 self-advocates were trained on “How to Tell Your Story.”
- ◆ 150 self-advocates received technical assistance, including help to start a new group for self-advocates who work.



- ◆ 12 student self-advocates testified to the Legislature on transition needs.
- ◆ 14 special education students participated in a workshop series on self-determination & leadership.

Council Publications

VTDDC raised awareness of People First language through distribution of 2000 copies of **“Choosing Words with Dignity”** to individuals, schools, media, organizations, and agencies across Vermont and the United States.



Council Budget

Income	
Federal Allocation	\$ 458,614
State Indirect	2,345
Federal Carry-over	93,531
TOTAL	\$ 554,490

Grantees provided
\$121,360
in matching funds
(cash or in-kind).

Expenditures	
Grants	\$ 377,515
Council Activities	91,441
General Management	85,534
TOTAL	\$ 554,490

Steering Committee Fund provides small grants to individuals and family members to support attendance at trainings and conferences, and to organizations for activities that enhance the lives of people with developmental disabilities.

- ◆ 75 self-advocates and family members attended trainings, workshops & conferences.
- ◆ 48 youths, ages 12-22, participated in inclusive recreation.
- ◆ 36 early interventionists trained to evaluate and monitor deaf infants & toddlers.
- ◆ Conferences supported included Parent to Parents' Partners in Care; VT Association of People in Supported Employment; Making Communication Happen; & Vermont Deaf Expo.
- ◆ Support for Hurricane Katrina victims with disabilities.

Vermonters helped by Fund grants say:



"I know [he'll] have a whole entire day feeling great about himself, not worrying about reading or math or if he is as fast as the other kids in gym class."

"I found myself relishing moments . . . seeing family after family arriving with a child who looked just like ours."



"The experience propelled me forward in my career and made me realize that I have a talent that I cannot allow to go to waste."

"A miracle came from my hard times. I have become an excellent and avid advocate for myself and for other people."

Legislative Advocacy & Legal Support Project

advocates in the Vermont Legislature and with state agencies to achieve improved services and supports and to extend civil and other rights. *Grantee: VT Coalition for Disability Rights—VCDR*

- 180 attended annual State House Disability Awareness Day.
- 250 legislators and public policy makers educated.
- 55 people active in advocacy about inclusive education.
- 56 people active in advocacy about community supports.
- 104 people active in systems advocacy about health.

Legislative advocacy efforts of VCDR's 26-member partners and organizations, with Green Mountain Self-Advocates, resulted in:



- ◆ 65 youths funded for employment supports at transition.
- ◆ \$760,000 appropriated for developmental services.
 - ◆ \$800,000 restored to Medicaid Children's Personal Care Services.
 - ◆ Inclusion of disability advocates and consumers on key legislative study committees.



Systems Advocacy Project provides legal advocacy to improve systems of support and training on legal rights.

Grantee: Vermont Legal Aid Disability Law Project

- ◆ *Trained 12 Somali and Bantu families on Developmental Services in collaboration with VT Refugee Resettlement Project.*
- ◆ *Trained 75 people including 30 legislators about health care services, in collaboration with Health Care Ombudsman office.*
- ◆ *Achieved mandated monitoring and review of Restrictive Behavioral Intervention state-wide through data reporting by school districts to Department of Education.*



Communication Support Project

helps Vermonters with developmental disabilities fully participate in legal proceedings. *Grantee: VT Office of the Defender General*

- ◆ *Demonstrated facilitation model at national Department of Justice conference.*
- ◆ *Presented model at June 2005 United Nations Conference.*
- ◆ *Served clients in 8 of VT's 14 counties in family, probate and superior courts, and in administrative hearings.*
- ◆ *Provided training to:*
 - ◆ *151 Family Court attorneys on communicating with clients with developmental disabilities.*
 - ◆ *35 employees of the Dept. of Children and Families.*
 - ◆ *146 self-advocates on leadership.*
 - ◆ *425 people about core quality of life issues and rights including freedom from abuse, neglect and exploitation.*
- ◆ *Created assessment tool for Department of Corrections on accommodation needs of people in supervision.*

Disability Employment Outreach Project

promotes employment of Vermonters with developmental disabilities. *Grantee: Governor's Committee on Employment of People with Disabilities—GCEPD*

- ◆ *Educated 2800 business leaders.*
- ◆ *Presented panel "Everything You Ever Wanted to Know About Employing People with Disabilities But Were Afraid to Ask" for Federal Executives Association.*
- ◆ *Reached 110,000 Vermonters. Media events included Governor's proclamation, press conference for Disability Awareness Month, and public service announcements.*



Transportation Leadership Project

offers leadership training to people with a wide range of developmental disabilities who want to learn about public transportation and how to improve it in their communities. *Grantee: Riders of Vermont—RoVer*

- ◆ *Developed advocacy teams in 3 of 12 transportation regions.*
- ◆ *66 people trained on transportation advocacy.*
- ◆ *98 people active in transportation hearings and meetings.*
- ◆ *1500 Vermonters educated about transportation issues.*
- ◆ *\$180,000 appropriated for transportation programs.*
- ◆ *Self-advocate appointed to VT's largest county Transportation Board.*

